REMARKS

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

Claims 1-14 are pending in the instant application. Claims 6 and 12 have been amended. Support for the claim amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. No new matter has been introduced by the instant claim amendments.

Claims 1, 2, and 4-14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0031871.
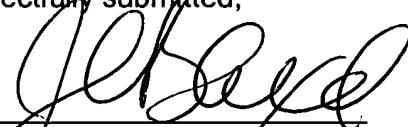
The rejection is respectfully traversed.

U.S. Patent Publication 2005/0031871 to Kinsho, et al. is **not** prior art to the subject application. Enclosed is an English-language translation of Japanese Application 2002-176485, filed on June 17, 2002, and Japanese Application 2002-223889, filed on July 31, 2002, from which priority is claimed. The filing dates of this priority document antedates the effective date of U.S. Published Patent Application 2005/0031871 to Kinsho, et al., which was filed on April 30, 2004. Applicant's claimed invention is fully described and enabled by Japanese Applications 2002-176485 and 2002-223889. Therefore, Applicant has perfected a priority claim in Japanese Applications 2002-176485 and 2002-223889, and the Kinsho reference is **not** prior art to the subject application (see MPEP 706.02(b)).

Applicant believes that additional fees are not required for consideration of the within response. However, if for any reason a fee is required or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Dated: November 8, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By_____

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